

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

DECEMBER 22, 2009

In October, the Chief Executive Officer and County Counsel reported to this Board regarding the proposed Southern California Edison (SCE) Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project-Segments 4-11 (TRTP) which is currently being considered for approval by the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). TRTP-Segments 4-11 is the third phase of a large scale transmission and substation line upgrade/construction project which would extend from the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area in southern Kern County through almost the entire length of Los Angeles County into Riverside County. The project is intended, at least in part, to provide electrical infrastructure to transmit electricity created from renewable wind resources.

The first two phases of the overall project have already been approved by the PUC and construction activity is currently underway in my district. Implementation by SCE of the first two phases has resulted in numerous complaints by residents and affected property owners who are in the project's path.

As indicated by the CEO and County Counsel in their report, various County departments commented on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for TRTP-Segments 4-11 earlier this year during the public review process to raise legitimate environmental concerns and to recommend environmental mitigation measures. Staff has indicated that although the Final EIR/EIS does respond to some of the concerns raised, it does not respond sufficiently to some of them, and certain feasible mitigation measures have not been appropriately included in the proposed final project.

The PUC is set to consider final approval of TRTP-Segments 4-11, and certification of the EIR/EIS on December 17, 2009. Since the project does not, at this point, include all appropriate mitigation measures that the County deemed necessary, it is appropriate for the County to seek judicial review of this project that will significantly impact many communities in Los Angeles County.

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The County should, and does, support efforts to increase the region's ability to access electricity from renewable resources, both because California law requires those efforts and because it can help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and it important to note that I am not seeking to prevent the TRTP Project. However, it is imperative that the PUC and SCE include all reasonable and feasible mitigation measures in this project and that SCE endeavor to implement the project in a way that respects the rights and interests of the citizens of the County. Based upon what I have seen in SCE's implementation of the first phases of this project, that respect has simply not been there.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors, direct County Counsel to take all appropriate administrative and legal steps to commence a legal challenge to the approval of TRTP-Segments 4-11, including a challenge to the Final EIR/EIS, and keep the Board apprised with the status of those efforts.

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